New Seasons

Grocery store workers join union

By Leigh Shelton
CNews Advertising Representative

Since he was a child, Joseph Mohrmann has survived off discarded food from New Seasons.

"It was essentially 'Blue Slips,'" Mohrmann said, using the store term for edible-but-unsellable food up for grabs for employees. What employees don't take is donated to community groups.

"We went to a church that got food donations from New Seasons," Mohrmann said. "I remember packing paper bags for others in need, but it was for us, too. We needed them too."

Now, at age 24, a five-year grocery clerk at New Seasons Concordia, 5320 NE 33rd Ave, Mohrmann still relies on the discarded food to get by. At $18.80 an hour, after rent and bills are paid, he said he has about $200 left to spend on food and anything else he may need or want in the two weeks before he gets paid again.

"I'm very frugal," Mohrmann said, who shares an apartment in Cully with his sister. "We don't heat the apartment much. I shop at thrift stores."

For about a year, Mohrmann and his co-workers have been meeting after hours to figure out what they can do to improve conditions in their workplace.

"It took a lot of energy and time to cultivate our working-class solidarity," said Raël Adkerson, a seven-year New Seasons employee and Concordia resident.

"The things this company was built on, we want to see some of that back," Adkerson said.

Negotiations are underway for the workers' first contract.

Progressive label

New Seasons is a 19-store grocery chain founded here in Portland in 1999. In 2009, New Seasons' founding members sold off a majority stake of the company to Endeavour Capital, a private equity firm. In 2009, Endeavour sold New Seasons, along with a suite of similar West Coast grocers, to E-mart Inc, South Korea's largest retailer.

New Seasons markets heavily its Certified B Corporation label. Awarded by global nonprofit B-Lab to achieve the "B Corp" label, a for-profit business is supposed to meet certain criteria in areas of sustainability, worker standards, and accounting transparency. When New Seasons first won the award in 2013, it did so with a score of 120 points. In its most recent survey, its points slipped to 80, the minimum required to hold the label.

In an email, a New Seasons spokesperson said, "From the time our company was founded in 1999, we have been rooted in taking care of our staff first and foremost, and B Corp certification is a recognition of the great work we've done. We're proud of our legacy as a progressive employer that offers industry-leading wages, a 30 percent discount, and generous benefits, including paid parental leave, paid time off, paid adoption benefits, 401K matching, twice-a-year automatic wage increases and so much more."

Informing customers

On a rainy Saturday afternoon in early February, New Seasons employee Dan Morrissey gathered with co-workers at the edge of the parking lot and approached customers as they came and went from the store. It was the first time the workers brought their struggle to customers' attention.

"Once people understand that we work here, and just want to talk to them about what's going on in the store, they're incredibly supportive," Morrissey said.

Morrissey said he joined the union hoping for better pay, but most impor-
Association welcomes input from residents

Hello again fellow Concordians!

Whether you’re prepping your garden for spring, making trips to the snowy mountains or staying cozy at home waiting for longer days, I hope this edition of Concordia News finds you well.

As we begin to emerge from our darkest Portland winter months, the neighborhood is certainly buzzing with upcoming events. Our volunteers are putting together quite the setlist of opportunities to get to know your neighbors better, so keep up with each month’s publication to stay on top of what’s going on in Concordia.

I’ve started to hear from a few of you via email since our last publication (thank you!). I would like to continue emphasizing that no comment or concern is too small, and our CNA Board is here to listen.

All board meetings and committee meetings are open to the public, and attendance from the neighborhood is highly encouraged. We are here representing local business community.

Kieran Lee works as an automotive engineer and particularly enjoys living in Concordia for a variety of reasons, including its diversity, accessibility, and local business community.

By Kieran Lee, CNA Chair

To go to the CNA Board of Directors agenda, visit ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings.

CNA meeting venues, how to attend

To learn how to attend CNA meetings in-person (when available) or remotely, visit:

- ConcordiaPDX.org/CNAMeetings
- Facebook.com/groups/ConcordiaPDX

CNA Board of Directors

Chair | Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org
Kieran Lee
East 1 | East1@ConcordiaPDX.org
Heather Pashley
East 2 | East2@ConcordiaPDX.org
Astrid Furstner
Northwest 1 | NW1@ConcordiaPDX.org
Isham “Ike” Harris
Northwest 2 | NW2@ConcordiaPDX.org
Matt Roberts
Southwest 1 | SW1@ConcordiaPDX.org
Javier Puga-Phillips
Southwest 2 | SW2@ConcordiaPDX.org
Meggan Gobble
At Large 1 | AL1@ConcordiaPDX.org
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At Large 2 | AL2@ConcordiaPDX.org
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Rich Burton
At Large 5 | AL5@ConcordiaPDX.org
Michelle Fitzgerald
At Large 6 | AL6@ConcordiaPDX.org
Brittany van der Salm

SUBMISSIONS & ADVERTISING

Submissions to Concordia News: Deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the upcoming monthly publication. Contact CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

Submissions to CNA website: Submit nonprofit news & events to MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org

Advertising: Leigh Shelton, CNewsBusiness@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.875.8410

MEDIA TEAM

CNA Board Liaison: John McSherry
Media Team Lead: Shawn Mihalk, MediaTeamLead@ConcordiaPDX.org, 503.502.8452
CNews Editor: Rob Cullivan, CNewsEditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNews Designer: Gordon Riggs, CNewsDesigner@ConcordiaPDX.org

Media Team: Erin Cooper, Kathy Crabtree, Rob Cullivan, Keith Daellenbach, Jon Dickman, Steve Elder, Michael French, Tami Fung, Gina Levine, Shawn Mihalk, Javier Puga-Phillips, Gordon Riggs, Rob Rogers, Marsha Sandeman, Leigh Shelton

Questions?
Contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 323.573.1516.

More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/Neighborhood/LitterPickUp

Concordia Neighborhood Litter Pickup

Care about your neighborhood? Want to help?

What: Join SOLVE and your neighbors for a litter pick up in the Concordia Neighborhood.

When: Saturday, March 4, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Where: Meet in Alberta Park, NE Ainsworth & 22nd

Registration: Pre-registration is required! Please sign up ahead of time and fill out the volunteer waiver form:

SOLVE Oregon: opportunity/a808w000000VBJE8UAP

Questions? Contact Javier Puga-Phillips at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or call 323.573.1516.

More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/Neighborhood/LitterPickUp

From the Board

I would like to continue emphasizing that no comment or concern is too small, and our CNA Board is here to listen.

2023 budget

To my knowledge, the Concordia Neighborhood Association has not published a calendar year budget in recent history. During the February Board meeting, the board voted on and approved a 2023 budget.

Why does this matter? Well, this allows us to better forecast spending for our neighborhood events and enables our Social Committee to plan ahead and secure resources.

With the past few years being a little less predictable, 2023 is an appropriate time to solidify standard yearly activities and also welcome in a few new ones, so stay tuned.

See you around the neighborhood and don’t forget to say hello!

Kieran Lee works as an automotive engineer and has volunteered in youth development. He particularly enjoys living in Concordia for a variety of reasons, including its diversity, accessibility, and local business community.

Contact: Kieran Lee, Chair@ConcordiaPDX.org

Financial Committee

Contact Rich Burton at LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.

Land Use & Transportation Committee

For information about upcoming meetings, contact Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

CNA Treasurer

Heather Pashley, Treasurer@ConcordiaPDX.org

North Community Safety Team

Jacob Brotstoff & Daniel Franco-Nunez, north.pdxteam@PortlandOregon.gov, 503.923.4064

Media Team

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More info: ConcordiaPDX.org/Neighborhood/LitterPickUp
**Group discusses potential NE center**

**By Rob Cullivan**

At a Feb. 13 meeting at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 6500 NE 29th Ave., members of a neighborhood group discussed the possibility of a community center in the area.

Hosted by Pastor Ike Harris, a Concordia Neighborhood Association board member, the group of nine folks engaged in a wide-ranging discussion with Portland Public School District and Family Liaison Jeff Wiser about possible uses for a plot of land on Northeast 42nd Avenue, next to Fernhill Park, where both John Adams High School and Whitaker Middle School once stood.

Wiser stressed he attended the meeting in an informal capacity to help attendees discuss their concerns and was not formally representing the school district.

Questions to be answered include how a possible center would fit in with district and neighborhood and get to know each other.

On a related note, the Concordia Neighborhood Association is currently drafting a letter on behalf of itself and many community and business leaders, offering alternative to public schools as well as a safe space for learners of all backgrounds.

**Concordia resident hosts walking group**

By Michelle Fitzgerald

Every Monday through Friday, join our volunteer host at 11 a.m. in the covered area at Alberta Park, to walk our neighborhood and get to know each other.

There is no set route, and walkers, runners, well-behaved dogs and baby strollers all are welcome.

If you want to volunteer as a host, please reach out to me at 503-901-8632 and I can share the details. Or join the Facebook group, Concordia Walkers.

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**Fundraiser set for Bosnia documentary**

Concordia residents Daniela Repas (Director), Jessica Daugherty (Producer), and Lillon Anderson (Donations Coordinator) are organizing efforts to raise funds for the animated feature documentary, “Pour the Water as I Leave,” currently in production in Portland.

“Pour the Water as I Leave” is a 90-minute animated, narrative/documentary hybrid film about what happened to Bosnians during the Balkans conflict 25 years ago and how those events relate to refugees today.

An exhibition titled “Installation, Vol I: Film in Progress” will be open from March 3-31, at 1715 SE Third Ave. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in March, or by appointment.

A closing night fundraiser party takes place at 5 p.m. Friday, March 31, at the gallery. Tax-deductible entry donation is $50.

For more information, visit SixBillionsSunsProductions.com/event.

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**Want to Write?**

Care about issues affecting our neighborhood? Write for CNews and experience the thrill of bringing relevant info to Concordia readers!

Pick a subject of your choice: events, new businesses, schools, etc.

Interested? The Media Team meets on the last Monday of every month. All meetings are open to the public.

Next up: Monday, March 27 at 6 p.m. See Page 2 to learn how to attend this virtual meeting.

Info: Contact Rob Cullivan at CNewseditor@ConcordiaPDX.org

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Upcoming year packed with events

By Javier Puga-Phillips
CNA Social Committee Chair

Get ready for an exciting year filled with community events and initiatives! We are continuing last year’s efforts to keep Concordia clean. The neighborhood cleanups are back. This year we have scheduled three cleanups, on March 4, June 3 and Oct 7. We are meeting at Alberta Park each date at 9 a.m. sharp. The committee invites all community members to join in and help keep our neighborhood clean.

Makers Market

On Saturday, March 18, the community room at Kennedy School will host the Makers Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity for local artists and the public to connect. The gathering features local residents showcasing and selling their handmade items such as music instruments, wood art, glass art, and more. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to participate.

Coming up

The Concordia Neighborhood Association will also host a range of exciting events, including the annual Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 10 a.m. (location to be determined). We are coming together as a neighborhood to fill the eggs at 4 p.m. Friday, April 7, in the community room at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave. The committee invites all community members and local businesses to participate or donate.

Year ahead

For the first time ever, CNA will host an official Pride event in June at Bonne Chance, 2209 NE Alberta St. More details to follow in the upcoming months.

The committee is also bringing back National Night Out, Yard Sale (likely over Labor Day weekend), Halloween and a Holiday Party. We do need volunteers for all of these events.

The new initiative “Partners in Concordia” aims to bring volunteers and community members together to tackle small tasks such as gardening, painting fences and changing bulbs. The committee is collecting names of volunteers and tasks they prefer to do and hopes to match them up with community members in need of help. The date for this initiative is set for some time in the summer.

Sabin meeting

On Feb. 8, the Sabin Community Association invited CNA board members as well as Concordia neighbors to attend one of their meetings at Sabin Elementary School, where Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) representatives addressed a recent fatal crash involving a single vehicle, on Dec. 5, that drove into a utility pole. The automobile was speeding on Prescott at 90 mph at the corner of NE 14th Avenue and Prescott Street, lost control and crashed. The meeting was an opportunity for the community to voice their concerns and thoughts on the issue of traffic safety in the neighborhood.

During the meeting, a large number of neighbors shared their concerns about the use of Prescott as a “speed track” and how drivers, even though it’s a two-way street, illegally pass cars. It was brought to our attention that the speed limit on Prescott is 25 mph, but some drivers ignore this, putting themselves and others in danger.

In light of these concerns, PBOT shared that the more letters the community sends the bureau, the faster it can address the issue. I would like to invite all Concordia neighbors to write a letter addressing any and all concerns about traffic safety in the neighborhood. These letters can be sent to me at Social@ConcordiaPDX.org or to our Land Use and Transportation Committee at LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Rachel Lee, the chair of Sabin Land Use and Transportation Committee, for the invitation to the meeting and for her efforts in ensuring that the community’s voice is heard.

Let’s work together to make Concordia a safer and more peaceful place for all, let’s come together and make Concordia a stronger and more vibrant community! If you own a business in Concordia or want to give a shoutout, please tag us @CNAPDX and use the #SocialConcordiaPDX.

Javier Puga-Phillips holds the Southwest 1 position on the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) Board of Directors, manages rentals of the McMenamins Kennedy School Community Room and chairs the CNA Social Committee. He is a real estate professional locally, and he is a published author and motivational speaker in Latin America and Spain.

LUTC needs you!

Do you want to be involved with land use and transportation in Concordia? What are your concerns?

Join the CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee and help us address those issues facing our Concordia neighbors.

Rich Burton, LUTC Committee chair, wants to hear from you! Contact Rich at LandUse@ConcordiaPDX.org.
McLaughlin is already running the institute while concurrently winding down her responsibilities at Harvard. Formerly a professor at the University of Washington, she said she looks forward to this summer. "I am thrilled to be in the Concordia Neighborhood" and "the community at various partner schools. Under the guidance of up to 15 specialists, the Ballmer Institute will embed all about," she said. In addition to academic course-work, the Ballmer Institute will embed students, under the guidance of up to 15 clinical psychologist faculty members, in the community at various partner schools in the Portland, David Douglas and Parkrose public school districts. UO says this real-world clinical training will consist of more than 700 hours of field-based practice. McLaughlin further noted the program may expand to include training in pediatric clinical settings.

Application for the first 35 students opened in February, and students begin classes next fall. The institute is expected to eventually enroll up to as many as 200 students yearly. McLaughlin also plans to hire staff focused on "implementation science," which uses the study of new strategies that, when applied in the real world, can improve the mental well-being of children.

McLaughlin also noted she expects the program will create a positive impact in the community. One of her priorities is to "establish a community advisory board to capture ongoing feedback from community partners, including teachers, parents, existing health care workers, even teenagers, to align with community needs and continue improving as the program unfolds."
Concordia Tree Team

Group seeks volunteers for spring pruning

By Mallory Pratt
Concordia Tree Team

I’m sure you’ve noticed that it’s been a tough winter for our trees with heavy winds and an ice storm. Did you know that good structural pruning can help protect them from catastrophic damage from wind and ice and lengthen their healthy lifespan? Your Concordia Tree Team was on the job this past fall doing that very thing for 56 street trees. And we’ll be doing it again this spring, including a special Earth Day event along 42nd Avenue.

What does good pruning look like? The improvement in health can be significant even if the change in appearance is subtle. The photos accompanying this article show a “before” and “after” for a Zelkova where branches that were likely to break or were rubbing against each other were removed to open the canopy for movement and new growth.

To see more examples of what pruning can do, check out the What’s New page on the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum website at AinsworthLinearArboretum.org/new-roots.

Spring pruning

Our team is preparing for Spring Street Tree Pruning right now. We’ll be knocking on doors in late March and pruning during the month of April. If you live west of 33rd Avenue and north of Alberta Street, you are in our target area for this spring.

If you or your neighbors are interested in this free service and/or joining the team, go to the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum website and click the “Get Involved” button to contact us.

We are also looking for tree enthusiasts to help with our Earth Day 2023 pruning and community event on Saturday, April 22. We are pleased to announce a joint venture with the Cully Tree Team and 42nd Avenue businesses to prune the street trees along the length of 42nd Avenue, which is our border with the Cully neighborhood.

We’d love help with getting sponsors, contacting businesses and planning the community activities. Please contact the team through the Ainsworth Linear Arboretum website using the Get Involved button and let us know you’d like to help.

If pruning is not your passion, we also work to protect older trees, plant big trees for the future and create equity of access to trees throughout the neighborhood. Come join us at our monthly meeting, the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30. Check the ALA website for location since it changes each month.

Mallory Pratt is the convener/facilitator for the Concordia Tree Team.
Keep those storm drains clean

By Micha Wolf
Concordia/Vernon/Woodlawn Neighborhood Emergency Team

I f you are a neighborhood walker like me, you will surely have noticed many clogged storm drains all around. Considering the amount of rain Portland is receiving every winter and spring, it is very important to keep the storm drains free of leaves and debris.

The federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Endangered Species Act direct the City of Portland to improve stormwater quality and protect watersheds, rivers, streams and drinking water resources. With the exception of storm-drain maintenance, the overall management of the stormwater system is the responsibility of the Portland Environmental Services. Given the city's limited budget and staff and the size of the infrastructure, the Portland Bureau of Transportation relies heavily on citizen involvement to help keep streets safe and to notify the city if a higher level of maintenance is needed at a particular location.

How you can help

To lessen street flooding, the city asks residents and property managers to help clean the inlets and storm drains in front of your properties. Use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the storm drain. Do not put your feet and hands into the storm drain because all kinds of debris collect there that could be dangerous. Do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

The best time to inspect the storm drains is prior to a rain event and right after a rain, snow or ice storm. Please do not rake or blow the leaves from your yard into the street. Bag them at the curb in the parking strip and prepare them for curbside pickup by your garbage hauler. The city's leaf removal service is intended solely for leaves that impede stormwater drainage and cause traffic hazards.

For leaves that have fallen into the street, please keep them out of the channel right along the curb, where they will block the path of rainwater. Rake them at least one foot from the curb.

Every year, NET teams have deployed for leaves that have fallen into the street. Bag them at the curb in the parking strip and prepare them for curbside pickup by your garbage hauler. The city's leaf removal service is intended solely for leaves that impede stormwater drainage and cause traffic hazards.

Portland residents should clean clogged storm drains, such as the one pictured here, prior to rain or snow. Photo by Micha Wolf

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T. C. O’Leary’s

Pub to offer St. Patrick’s fun

By Rob Cullivan
CNews Editor

Portland’s Irish community is gearing up for the wearin’ o’ the green this month as it prepares to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Friday, March 17.

T.C. O’Leary’s, 2926 NE Alberta St., will be party central in Concordia from Friday, March 10, to Saturday, March 18.

A hub of Irish music, dance and literary happenings in town, O’Leary’s will feature live music over the eight-day period and kicks off St. Patrick’s weekend with a performance by Portland band St. James Gate from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, March 16.

Performing everything from traditional, popular and original compositions, St. James’s Gate has been lighting up stages with fiery Irish music for many years and has played stages here in the States as well as in Ireland.

On St. Patrick’s Day, O’Leary’s has scheduled the following lineup. Admission is free until 4 p.m., and then it’s $5.

Irish piping tunes: 1–3 p.m.

Preston Wilde plays the uilleann pipes.

Kate and The Lads are the house band at T.C. O’Leary’s, which hosts a slew of acts on St. Patrick’s Day. Contributed photo.